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FM AMEMBASSY LUANDA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3555
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 001304

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/22/2031

TAGS: PGOV PREL AO

SUBJECT: ALMOST 1 MILLION REGISTERED DURING FIRST MONTH

REF: A) LUANDA 01298 B) LUANDA 01291

Classified By: Charge d'affaires Francisco J. Fernandez,
reasons 1.5 (b) and (d)

¶11. (U) According to official numbers released December 22, 945,451 potential voters were registered in the first phase of voter registration. As expected, the populous provinces of Luanda, Benguela and Huambo recorded the highest numbers of registrants. Sparsely populated Zaire and Namibe provinces recorded the least registrants.

¶12. (C) Registration results from provinces traditionally affiliated with UNITA and other opposition parties showed strong results. The traditional UNITA strongholds of Benguela, Huambo, and Bie registered a total of 268,418 voters. Four other provinces with strong historical UNITA ties registered an additional 193,724 potential voters. The vast yet sparsely populated PRS strongholds of Moxico and the Lundas registered 83,875 voters. NOTE: Angola's last census, taken in 1973, showed population centers in the coastal cities of Luanda, Benguela, and Lobito, and large population centers driven by the agricultural sector in the provinces of Huambo, Kuanza North, Huila and Uige. Though reliable data does not exist, the ensuing 3 decades of conflict produced massive population sifts toward urban centers, in particular towards the provincial capitals of Luanda, Huambo, Benguela, and Lubango. END NOTE

¶13. (U) Registration results by province through 15 December 2006 are as follows:

Luanda 180,730	Benguela 121,428	Huambo 93,371	Huila 79,847
Kwanza Sul 61,041	Uige 55,757	Bie 53,619	Malange 47,775
Moxico 32,129	Lunda Norte 28,724	Kuando Kubango 28,024	
Bengo 25,523	Cunene 24,830	Kwanza North 24,752	
Cabinda 24,230	Lunda Sul 23,022	Zaire 20,711	Namibe 19,938

¶14. COMMENT: (C) The registration numbers reinforce the results of the recent IRI-sponsored poll that indicated that most Angolans look forward to voting. While the strong start could bode well for phase two of registration, set to commence January 15, it will be interesting to see if the recent recommendation by the Council of the Republic to hold off on elections until 2008 will dampen voter enthusiasm.

End Comment.

FERNANDEZ